

Message Text

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ACTION EB-07

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 ISO-00 AGRE-00 CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00

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FM AMEMBASSY MEXICO

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 8088

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, ETRD, MX

SUBJECT: MEAT QUOTAS

REF: MEXICO 13174

1. AGATT RECEIVED WRITTEN RESPONSE FROM RAMOS CANTORAL TODAY CONFIRMING THAT SAG IS AGREEABLE TO A REDUCTION OF 8 MILLION POUNDS IN MEXICO'S QUOTA FOR 1976 IF USG CAN PROVIDE WRITTEN ASSURANCES TO VARIOUS QUESTIONS. TRANSLATED TEXT OF LETTER SHOWN BELOW. PLEASE INFORM US ASAP OF REPLY TO BE GIVEN.

BEGIN TEXT. PURSUANT TO YOUR LETTER OF OCTOBER 13, 1976 AND TO OUR CONVERSATION OF YESTERDAY, I WISH TO ADVISE YOU THAT FROM A TECHNICAL STANDPOINT, OUR SECRETARIAT OF AGRICULTURE AND LIVESTOCK WOULD BE WILLING TO ACCEPT A REDUCTION OF 8 MILLION LBS. IN THE MEAT EXPORT QUOTA ASSIGNED TO MEXICO FOR 1976, PROVIDED THAT ASSURANCE IN WRITING WOULD BE GIVEN US BY THE RESPECTIVE U.S. AUTHORITIES ON THE FOLLOWING ASPECTS ON WHICH YOU AGREED IN PRINCIPLE DURING OUR CONVERSATION:

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1. THE MEXICAN QUOTA REDUCTION FOR 1976 SHALL BY NO MEANS

ESTABLISH A PRECEDENT FOR THE DETERMINATION OF SUBSEQUENT QUOTAS, SHOULD THE U.S. IMPLEMENT AGAIN A MEAT IMPORT RESTRAINING PROGRAM.

2. MEXICO'S PARTICIPATION IN THE GLOBAL QUOTA TO BE SET UP BY THE U.S. FOR 1977 SHALL MAINTAIN THE SAME PROPORTION AS THIS YEAR'S, I.E. THE EQUIVALENT OF 5.19 PERCENT.

3. IN ACCORD WITH THE ABOVE, THE ESTABLISHMENT OF MEXICO'S QUOTA FOR 1977 SHALL BE BASED UPON THE SAME FEATURES UTILIZED FOR THE 1976 QUOTA, I.E. USING FOR COMPUTATION MEXICO'S 1973 EXPORT VOLUME REPRESENTING THE HIGHEST LEVEL OF DOMESTIC MEAT SALES TO THE U.S. WITHIN THE LAST TWO YEARS WHEN THE RESTRAINT PROGRAM WAS NOT IN FORCE.

4. IN CASE OF DEFICITS IN MEAT DELIVERIES TO THE U.S. BY THE OTHER COUNTRIES PARTICIPATING IN THE RESTRAINT PROGRAM (BASED ON AN EVALUATION TO BE MADE IN EARLY DECEMBER) AND PROVIDED MEXICO WILL BE IN A POSITION TO MEET HER QUOTA, A QUOTA INCREASE SHALL BE GRANTED US AT THAT TIME ON PREFERENTIAL TERMS, TAKING INTO CONSIDERATION THE QUOTA REDUCTION ALREADY SUSTAINED BY MEXICO. CONVERSELY, SHOULD MEXICO NOT BE IN POSITION TO COMPLETE ITS QUOTA BY THE BEGINNING OF DECEMBER 1976, BASED ON ITS EXPORT CAPABILITIES, WE SHALL BE AGREEABLE TO A FURTHER QUOTA REDUCTION OF 2 MILLION LBS. IN OUR BASIC 1976 QUOTA OF 60 MILLION LBS. WHICH IN SUCH EVENT WOULD BRING THE TOTAL REDUCTION TO 10 MILLION LBS. FOR CY 1976.

IN CASE YOU WOULD BE IN AGREEMENT WITH THE TERMS EXPRESSED DURING OUR CONVERSATION AND CONFIRMED ABOVE, WE WOULD APPRECIATE YOUR FORMALIZING THE ABOVE BY MEANS OF A NOTE TO THE FOREIGN OFFICE SO THAT THE LATTER AGENCY MIGHT BE ABLE TO MAKE A FINAL DECISION ON THE AMENDMENT OF THE AGREEMENT SIGNED BY OUR TWO COUNTRIES BY EXCHANGE OF NOTES SIGNED ON JUNE 11, 1976 BY SECRETARY OF FOREIGN RELATIONS LIC ALFONSO GARCIA ROBLES AND BY U.S. AMBASSADOR JOSEPH JOHN JOVA. END TEXT.

2. BASED ON CONVERSATIONS (IN REFTTEL) WE DO NOT FORESEE ANY PROBLEM WITH FOREIGN OFFICE PROVIDED WE CAN OFFER ASSURANCES REQUESTED ABOVE--PARTICULARLY POINTS 1 AND 3. WE HAVE NOTED TO RAMOS THAT WORDING ON PRECISE PERCENTAGE SHARE FOR 1977 MIGHT NOT BE POSSIBLE, BUT ANY ASSURANCES ALONG THIS LINE LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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WOULD BE HELPFUL.
JOVA

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